

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
8/10/08 – 8/23/08**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Ryan Aho contacted an ORV operating in an illegal manner. Further investigation found the operator to have a suspended operator's license. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy assisted Houghton County Sheriff Department deputies with a drowning in Portage Lake. The Michigan State Police (MSP) dive team was called to locate the 19 year old personal watercraft (PWC) operator who was not wearing a life jacket.

CO Mark Leadman responded to a report of a fire that had escaped near Little Lake. The subject had attempted to burn a pile of brush when the fire escaped and burned two acres before being suppressed by fire crews. The subject was ticketed.

CO Trey Luce was finally able to locate and ticket a camper who had been illegally camped at the Little Lake State Forest Campground for the past several weeks.

There was another drowning in Houghton County. A 16 foot boat swamped in rough water on Lake Superior with three persons on board. A fisherman pulled all three from the water, but one 42 year old subject did not survive.

**DISTRICT 2**

CO Reid Roeske ticketed one subject for establishing an illegal deer bait and for placing tree spike steps in trees on state land.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon is continuing to assist the MSP with a report of a body being seen in Big Island Lake. A boater reported seeing something resembling a body floating in the water. Assistance was given to the MSP Dive Team. At this time, no body has been found.

A group patrol along the Lake Superior shoreline and other sensitive habitat areas was made with Luce County Deputies, Conservation Officers Mike Hammill, Derek Miller, Kellie Nightlinger, and Bob Madden. Several groups of ORVs were contacted but no violations were observed.

CO Derek Miller received a complaint of litter along the Newberry High School cross country team running trails. CO Miller's investigation included taking car parts from the litter piles and tracing the numbers back to the registered owner, then to the person to whom he sold the car, then to the person to whom he sold the parts. CO Miller was

able to get a confession from that person. The subject cleaned the trails up within hours of contact with CO Miller.

### **DISTRICT 3**

Area COs worked the hydroplane boat races over the weekend. The race covered most of the inland waterway, with CO duties including sweeping the rivers of boat traffic, keeping recreational boaters out of the rivers, a safety presentation to the racers prior to the race, and general marine safety enforcement during and after the race. This year's race went smoothly, with only one boating accident involving a race boat and no injuries incurred.

CO Michael Feagan responded to several state forest campground complaints. Actions included issuing tickets for failure to pay for campground sites, littering (dumping a holding tank on the ground in the campground), and evicting a disorderly group of campers.

Patrolling the Black Mountain State Recreation Area, CO Michael Feagan heard ORVs from a distance which appeared to be operating at very high speeds. CO Feagan found two ORVs drag racing down a roadway. After stopping them, CO Feagan found both operators to also be suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Eric Bottorff patrolled state land in response to an ongoing complaint of unlawful ORV use. CO Bottorff located and ticketed the driver of an ORV who was operating in a closed area, had no ORV license, and was riding double.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski observed two ORVs operating on a closed trail. The drivers stated they must have missed their turn. With the designated ORV trail close by, and knowledge of a sharp turn, they were given the benefit of the doubt. However, a check of their ORV licenses indicated one of the licenses was counterfeit. The fraudulent license/sticker was seized and enforcement action taken.

CO Nick Torsky, while patrolling in the Pigeon River State Forest, found early strike bait used for training dogs on bear. CO Torsky, after a lot of walking and scouting, was eventually able to locate the subjects and issued them a ticket for their illegal activity.

CO Kelly Ross, while on patrol on McCormick Lake, checked a husband and wife who had been fishing. The two had some success landing two smallmouth bass earlier in the day. CO Ross measured the bass and found them both to be undersized and issued a ticket for the violation.

COs Carl Vanderwall and Duane Budreau observed a truck full of firewood leaving state land in Emmet County. The COs turned around and attempted to catch up to the truck. The vehicle fled at a high rate of speed. The COs finally caught the subject on the highway and ticketed him for illegally cutting wood.

CO Andrea Albert responded to a call from several golfers who were on the back nine of an Antrim County course. They reported that a Great Blue Heron was caught in a leg hold trap. CO Albert released the bird and was also able to track down the subject.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

COs Sam Koscinski and Jair Kollasch checked a camp in the area around Chase Creek that was not displaying a registration card. Upon identifying the occupants of the camp, the COs learned that one subject had an outstanding warrant out of Missaukee County for failing to pay child support. The subject could not post the \$680 bond, so he was lodged in Missaukee County jail.

COs Sam Koscinski and Jair Kollasch were called to the Missaukee Junction DNR ORV trail in Wexford County to assist with an ORV accident. The COs and Sheriff Deputies were at first unable to locate the accident. COs utilized dirt bikes to eventually locate the subject. The victim had a severely broken leg and had to be carried out on a back board because the area was inaccessible by vehicle. The victim was then transported by helicopter to the hospital.

COs Sam Koscinski and Jair Kollasch, after a lengthy investigation regarding littering (items included a car filled with personal effects) on state land in Wexford County, located the owner of the vehicle. The owner of the car stated that she and her boyfriend had a disagreement and that she had left the residence. The boyfriend decided to pack up her personal belongings in her car and leave it all on state land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sean Kehoe received a trapping complaint in Grand Traverse County that led back to a trapper known to the CO. In both this contact and the prior one the trapper also had an outstanding warrant for his arrest.

CO Sean Kehoe was on foot patrol on the Boardman River in Grand Traverse County and observed two subjects fishing. At approximately 2:00 a.m. the two anglers packed up and started to leave the area and were surprised to see the CO. One subject was ticketed for fishing without a license.

CO Sean Kehoe assisted Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department deputies with two OUIL related traffic accidents.

CO Diane Drogowski was patrolling a local Grand Traverse County lake and contacted passengers on a pontoon boat. The CO had observed all the passengers fishing prior to making contact. One subject produced his father's fishing license and stated that his father didn't want it any more and had given it to him. An undersized bass was also located in the live well. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Mueller assisted in recovering the body of a subject who drowned while tubing on the Muskegon River in Mecosta County.

CO Mike Borkovich ticketed a subject in Leelanau County for setting fire to a travel trailer. The subject was ticketed for unlawful disposal of solid waste.

CO Justin Vanderlinde contacted a husband and wife from Texas fishing in Benzie County. When asked for a fishing license, the husband produced a resident fishing license belonging to his father. The subject was ticketed for fishing without a license.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Bobbi Bashore located an early strike bait for bear and contacted the responsible hounds men when they brought their dogs into the bait to chase bear. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck McPherson assisted sheriff deputies after a small plane crashed into an area lake. The pilot was uninjured and rescued from the water.

COs William Cherry and Matt Liestenfeltz contacted a subject in possession of a load of fire wood that had been taken from state land. The individual did not have a fuel wood permit and the license plate on his vehicle was invalid. The COs had ticketed this individual previously in the year for taking walleye out of season.

CO Mike Hearn responded to a fire that escaped from a fire pit and burned adjacent land after having been left unattended the previous night. The fire department had already responded to the same residence for the same violation on three other occasions.

While patrolling a campground, COs Chuck McPherson and John Huspen located two teenage subjects smoking marijuana. The subjects told the COs they had gotten the narcotics along with alcohol from the mother of one of the subjects. The parent was contacted at the camp and ticketed for possession of marijuana and furnishing alcohol to a minor.

CO Tami Pullen checked an angler who acted suspicious when presenting his fishing license. When asked for his date of birth, he gave a date different from what appeared on the license. Further investigation revealed he was a Texas resident using a borrowed Michigan fishing license. A ticket was issued.

CO Becky Hopkins assisted in the search for individuals who had been tubing the river and were overdue by more than four hours. CO Hopkins located the subjects on land several miles away from their pick-up point and saw that they returned safely.

CO Brian Olsen checked an angler who had an undersized bass and pike in his boat. The subject stated he was just taking the fish home to measure them.

COs Warren MacNeill and Brian Engelhard conducted several late night boat patrols on Hubbard Lake in response to numerous complaints of boats operating without

navigational lights. Several arrests were made for no navigational lights and other marine safety violations, as well as various fishing violations including possession of undersized walleye.

CO Steve Lockwood assisted the MSP in investigating a marijuana growing operation. Officer Lockwood located the plants and directed the troopers to them.

CO Joel Lundberg, assisted by the MSP, checked an angler who had a felony cocaine warrant for his arrest. The subject fled into the woods on foot but was located a short time later and arrested.

CO Joel Lundberg obtained information regarding the possible location of stolen property from a breaking and entering incident. CO Lundberg involved Gladwin County Sheriff's Deputies and a search warrant was obtained. The search produced the stolen property and arrests are pending.

CO Joel Lundberg responded to a complaint from a subject who saw a person dumping a freshly shot deer. CO Lundberg located the evidence and contacted a subject who confessed to shooting the deer he was seen dumping, and to 11 other deer he had shot during the summer months. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 6**

COs Holly Pennoni and Nick Atkin stopped a boat on the Saginaw River violating the slow no-wake zone. Upon contacting the anglers and checking their fishing licenses, one of the passengers produced an Ohio driver's license, a sport card, and a resident fishing license. The subject stated he bought the sport card because he knew he could not buy a resident fishing license with his Ohio license. The subject was ticketed.

CO Nick Atkin received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint that someone was baiting early on private property. The CO investigated the area and located a truck load of bait on one pile. The subject in the case was contacted and enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was patrolling state land looking for early bait locations and tree stands but instead located 21 pounds of marijuana in a remote area. The marijuana had an estimated street value of \$21,000. The marijuana was seized by the local sheriff's department.

CO Phil Hudson made an arrest for ORV trespass on private property. The operator also was not wearing a helmet.

CO Phil Hudson wrote one ticket for early bait and has received numerous complaints regarding early deer baiting. The CO is doing follow up on several other baiting complaints.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Gerard Goulette and Sgt. Dave Shaw checked a subject fishing from shore on the Grand River. The subject was fishing without a license and was issued a ticket. During the conversation, it was discovered that the subject had lost a new fishing rod and reel during the night when a large fish pulled the equipment from a rod holder. As the COs were motoring away, they observed the end of a fishing rod sticking out of the water near submerged brush. After untangling the line, the COs recovered the subject's new fishing equipment and returned it to him.

CO Mike McGee received a complaint regarding a subject with a fawn. Investigating the complaint, CO McGee located a subject in possession of a fawn. The subject had placed a collar around the fawn's neck and was keeping it as a pet. CO McGee seized the fawn and enforcement action was taken. The fawn was taken to a local rehabilitator.

## **DISTRICT 8**

No report.

## **DISTRICT 9**

Sgt. Tom Wanless assisted a township police officer on a traffic stop during an OWI initiative. As the officer was checking the operator through the computer, Sgt. Wanless observed a bucket of live fish in the back seat of the vehicle. The operator admitted to catching some of the fish and a musk turtle without a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken on both the fishing and alcohol violations.

CO Linda Scheidler conducted a marine patrol on a local lake. She contacted the operator of a vessel that had an expired registration. The operator and owner stated he had not operated the boat in a long time and knew the registration was expired. He stated he would roll the dice on seeing a CO. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler worked a complaint where the complainant had photographs of two subjects trespassing and fishing in the complaint's pond for trout. The complainant advised CO Scheidler that one of the subjects was caught and warned once before. CO Scheidler interviewed the subjects who both admitted to trespassing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher checked two boats loading up at the Fair Haven access site; the first vessel had two subjects with 58 pan fish and one short bass. The second vessel also had two subjects who had three short bass. Enforcement action was taken with both groups.

CO Al Schwiderson and Sgt. Tom Wanless conducted a marine patrol during a special marine event on the St. Clair River. The permit called for 50 subjects to float down the

river from Port Huron to Marysville on inner tubes. The local media advertised and promoted the event. Approximately 2500 to 3000 people participated in the event, floating down the river in anything from life jackets to homemade rafts. Some participants had to be towed out of the shipping channel for safety and there were two reported injuries.

While on marine patrol on the Detroit River, CO Dan Walzak and a Wayne County officer observed a vessel traveling at a high rate of speed in a slow, no-wake zone. The vessel was also missing a white all-around light even though it was 20 minutes after sunset hours. After stopping the vessel and conducting a safety check, it was determined that the operator of the vessel was intoxicated. The subject, who blew .14 on a PBT, was taken into custody and arrested for OUIL watercraft.

## **DISTRICT 25**

CFI Shannon Van Patten and CFS Terry Short visited a state licensed commercial fishing facility. One of the operator's trawl vessels had just arrived in port and was unloading. Routine checks were made on the just arrived catch. Officers found a large number of the whitefish to be undersize. Enforcement action was taken.

CFS John Morey and CFS Craig Milkowski received a complaint of an illegal gill net in Lake Huron waters just off of the Cheboygan pier heads. They responded to the complaint and were able to locate balled up gill net. While pulling the net, they found one float with the ID number of the fisher that had set the net. Enforcement action has been initiated.